

REMARKS

Claims 24-45 remain in this application. Claims 1-23 have been previously canceled.

Claims 24, 36, 39 and 44 have been amended. No new matter is entered by way of the amendments.

Claims 24-45 were rejected as obvious over BROWN 5,875,435 in view of HARRIS 5,517,406.

Applicant respectfully disagrees for the reasons that follow. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are therefore respectfully requested.

BROWN

The automated accounting system taught in BROWN is a connected system or network of users, such as individuals, businesses, merchants, financial institutions and other entities, that can provide its users a method of automating the accounting of all financial transactions made by the users and other entities in the network (see column 2, lines 12-17).

As described with reference to Figures 1 to 4, the system has a master ledger stored in a host computer. The personal and business accounts reside in the master ledger. The system also has subsidiary ledgers residing in personal computers at all entities with which a first entity will enter into financial transactions. The subsidiary ledgers are for record keeping and reporting of transactions by all entities. Authorized users and agents can access specific accounts in subsidiary

ledgers and the master ledger. This access allows the users to record transaction details and the agents to perform activities selecting from the group consisting of entering, deleting, reviewing, adjusting, and processing data inputs in the master ledger and subsidiary ledgers. Updates from the subsidiary ledgers are periodically entered into the master ledger.

However, as acknowledged in the Office Action, BROWN does not disclose the accounts being predetermined by the client "in consideration of tax liability options for transactions" or in accordance with accounts of at least one business type predominated by the client, each of said accounts including a pre-allocated unique account identification and an account description which is prescribed by the client or generally adopted by traders in said at least one business type, and each of said category codes being pre-specified as a taxed or non-taxed category, and as an expenditure or income transaction type, the administration module having a master chart of accounts from which the client chart of accounts is extracted, and chart generating means for generating said master chart of accounts in accordance with an administrator's determination".

In the Office Action, these features are said to be known in the art and HARRIS is indicated as an example. In column 1, line 36 to column 2, line 58, HARRIS talks about valuation of investment in retirement plans being traditionally performed using a technique called balanced forward, and changes to

investment options in the plan would only become effective at the end of a balancing period.

Participants in these plans, however, began to demand daily valuation, whereby investment options could be altered on a daily basis and whereby balances for the participant's account would be updated daily. According to column 3, lines 7-41, this prior art problem is solved by an automated trade processing system which provides the ability to provide trade-acknowledgement confirmation back to the record keeper prior to actually receive trade execution confirmation from the transfer agent.

Additionally, with the trade-acknowledgement confirmation, price and accrual information from the transfer agent is passed to the record keeper. Therefore, the record keeper can begin the process of daily valuation of participant accounts even prior to actual execution of the requested trades.

In contrast, the system claimed in claims 24 to 45 is for accounting purposes and is not related to automated trade processing of investment valuation.

The Office Action refers to HARRIS, column 1, lines 1-17 and column 3, lines 7-24.

The applicant has carefully studied these passages, as well as the whole of HARRIS, and cannot identify any feature in these passages that corresponds to the features in the claims.

Thus, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Official Action and believes the previously pending claims are non-obvious.

However, in order to advance prosecution and without prejudice, applicant has further amended the claims for clearly distinguishing the present invention from the prior art.

Amended claim 24 includes the following features:

at least one adviser module associated with one or more of said at least one client module,

the administration module, the at least one client module and the one adviser module

being arranged for communication over a communications network,

the at least one adviser module being arranged to transfer accounts configuration information to the administration module for configuring the associated at least one client module,

the associated at least one client module having transaction entry means for entering transaction records, pre-assigned transaction category codes being stored on a storage medium, means for selecting a pre-assigned category code to associate with a transaction record to be entered through the transaction entry means, and a client chart of accounts for selection of an account to which the transaction record is to be associated, the accounts being predetermined by the client in consideration of tax liability options for transactions or in accordance with accounts of at least one business type

predominated by the client, each of said accounts including a pre-allocated unique account identification and an account description which is prescribed by the client or generally adopted by traders in said at least one business type, and each of said category codes being pre-specified as a taxed or non-taxed category, and as an expenditure or income transaction type, and

the administration module having a master chart of accounts from which the client chart of accounts is extracted based on the information from the adviser module, and chart of accounts generating means for generating said client chart of accounts in accordance with an adviser module determination of relevant account information for an associated client module.

The above features are described in page 6, line 22 to page 7, line 16, and shown in Figures 2A and 2B. Thus, no new matter is entered by way of these amendments.

Neither BROWN nor HARRIS teaches the above features in amended claim 24.

The accounting system as now claimed generates client charts of accounts based on account configuration information originates from the associated adviser module. This frees the clients or users from having to learn accounting terms, tax law relevant to their businesses and to enter data for creating their chart of accounts. The master chart of account in the administration module accumulates charts of accounts information

from different adviser modules. As such, the system could generate client charts of accounts suitable for many different business types. The system thus greatly assists advisers who take on new clients in business types they are not familiar with as they can retrieve relevant account information for such businesses from the administration module.

Therefore, the system as claimed in amended claim 24 is non-obvious over BROWN in view of HARRIS.

Claims 25-45 are also patentable at least for being dependent on amended claim 24.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 24-45 as being obvious under 35 USC §103(a).

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive and to put the case in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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